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Posted At: Friday, April 09, 2004 3:22 PM
Posted To: spywareworkshop2004
Conversation: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509
Subject: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509

To Whom It May Concern:

Yes, ..we agree with spyware should not be placed on anyone's system here is my example. I can deal with it to an extent as my husband being disabled finds it almost a personal threat..but he has been physically attacked also. We do agree is the only comment I really need to make with privacy on the net.

My husband is disabled, bed ridden at an early age of 44. He has only the internet support groups that help him deal with his life in Chronic Pain. He has had his computer "hijacked" and lost a hard drive due to these ongoing spam issues. He was bought a laptop in December 2002 from his Harvard Scholl Of Medicine friends. It was hit twice and lost the hard drive. I then bought him another to use October of 2003 the other had been fixed top many times. It is his only distraction from the disabilities he lives in.

In fact he has been harassed (spammed) by the some same major domains. It got extremely bad he changed his e-mail address May of last year 2003. He got two e-mail addresses. One to use for the internet and forums he belong to the other was purposely given to 10 people only family. He made sure he only gave his primary box to 10 at most. To date he has not received a non spam e-mail that was truly anyone he even remotely knows.

He had our ISP delete both his e-mail boxes as of en of March 2004 after many attempts at asking our ISP for help. We even purchased the Symantec's Internet Security Professional. The ISP added a while and black list to the e-mail settings and my husband has all his Internet Explorer settings set to the maximum security.

In spite of his futile attempts to discourage these folks they were sending him as high as 23 e-mail porn sites, pharmacy overseas, adult and graphic in nature. The only thing we don't get is a virus but worms seem to hit through e-mail after.. of all of the shields he put up. He hasn't even bother or ISP for another addy he had for 4 years now! At this point because he is using his FREE MSN-Hotmail account which seems to never be hit..a bit odd seeing our ISP does get hit and MSN doesn't. He leaves his old address on his profile on his browser even though it is no good but if anyone receives any information from a cookie he doesn't have an e-mail addy and using his with newest version of Outlook Express.

I find it very strange though Microsoft's Hotmail isn't not spammed like his regular e-mail. They also use a safe list so to speak. You use the address you place in you address book and it is the only one allowed if you chose it to be. I mean on his hotmail he can chose to only except mail from people in his personal address book and it works. Yet the ISP that we pay for this service can with their new modus mail by Viacom. It has a place for you to add to the white list..it doesn't work.

As well as the ISP black list is the only support we get. It seems they could call or stop another major ISP from spamming like CompuServe and AOL. He has no way of blocking for example the two above mentioned domains. He does know a single person who uses them so all he can do is commit the incoming e-mail spam top the black list. Then the spam sender changes only on letter, number, or underscore and here he get another round of porno spam.

He in all honestly has never visited a porn site, adult content site in nature, belong to only Medical groups and forums. His only escape from his 24/7 living in Chronic Intractable Pain is a distraction like talking to others who live in his same shoes. He has no way to get around, he doesn't drive, he has to lay flat in bed 24/7 and can barely get from room to room in hour home.

He has advanced Osteoporosis at 52 know of a woman of 106 years old. The Neurosurgeon surgeon found it when they were doing lumbar and cervical fusion a 4 level lumbar and 3 level cervical. They were total failures due to is oteoporotic bones. The Neurosurgeon from Harvard said the titanium rods that he usually has to beat in slid in like his bones were made of Jell-O pudding. This left him with severe nerve root damage mainly two both legs are effects and his arms which he can even play a guitar today.

All he wants is the ability (not disabilities he has those) to be able to go online without his private information being seen by everyone. He also had to fend off a junkie who came to our door. This person in fact admitted he was targeting disabled license tags. So he was left at home while I worked for the Insurance we need for his medications. While I am gone all day he was and is open to security issues even in our own family home.

I just wanted to sate I feel something should be done to protect the innocent. He can not type this for himself so he asked if I would since he uses a laptop from bed and doesn't have and ISP addy. Thanks for listening and hope your workshops go well.

Sincerely, BL Gates (no relationship)